

The Servant of God
Therese Neumann
(1898-1962)
“Resl of Konnersreuth”

Therese Neumann, also well-known by the name “Resl of Konnersreuth”, was born in Konnersreuth (Diocese of Regensburg) in the night of April 8 to 9, 1898, the night of Good Friday to Holy Saturday. She was the first of eleven children of a rather poor tailor’s family. From 1904 to 1911 she attended the village school of Konnersreuth, which she left with good results. As a healthy and sturdy girl she started work with a neighbouring farmer and had to labour physically hard on his farm. In those years she expressed the wish to become a missionary sister and to go to Africa as soon as she was no longer needed at home. Already then she got in touch with the Benedictine Missionary Nuns of Tutzing (Upper Bavaria). But soon her life should take a different course from what she had planned and expected. As a result of an accident when helping to put out a fire on March 10, 1918 she was paralysed. Since mid-March 1919 she also became totally blind in addition to paralysis.

Therese Neumann put up with this hard fate with great submission to God’s will, accompanied by her devoted pastor and parish priest Rev. Josef Naber. But on April 29, 1923 her blindness suddenly disappeared. It was the day of the Beatification of Therese of Lisieux. From her father who was on duty in France Resl had got a prayer card of this venerable French Carmelite Nun she had highly revered since that time. Her paralysis however persisted. Few years later, on March 17, 1925, the day of the Canonization of Therese of Lisieux, she also felt healed from her paralysis and made first attempts to walk. Some months later, on September 30, the anniversary of the death of St Therese of Lisieux, she was able to walk alone without help. During Lent 1926 phenomena that caused great sensation appeared. Resl had visions of the life and suffering of Jesus – the question of their genuineness is being examined at present – her body also showed the stigmata of Christ (stigmatization). Since then until her death she suffered the Passion of Christ on her own body, an incident which attracted and led thousands of people to Konnersreuth. Thus Resl became known worldwide. Devotees, but also critics, gave their view on these occurrences and the other extraordinary phenomena.

Since August 1926 she no longer felt any hunger so she refused to eat any food. At first she only took some drops of water after receiving the Holy Communion, but from September 1927 until her death she also abstained completely. Her only nourishment remained the Host, the Eucharistic Bread, which she received daily. Therefore the Bishop’s Consistory of Regensburg placed her in the hands of a medical commission to investigate her under strict surveillance in 1927.

Not least Therese Neumann had an alert feeling for the dangers of the spirit of the times. So she bravely resisted the regime of National Socialism by gathering a circle of like-minded friends around herself. She supported them and gave advice. Among them was Dr. Fritz Gerlich, who as a confessing Christian in his fight against the Nazi-Regime, lost his life in the Concentration Camp Dachau, as well as the Capuchin Pater Ingbert Naab, who died in exile. Even bishops and cardinals asked her for advice. But she always remained the simple tailor’s daughter who disliked any sensation about her person. Her love and attention above all focussed on the sick and dying as well as on flowers and birds as God’s creation. In the spirit of atonement she willingly suffered for others. Thanks to her initiative the Seminary for Late Vocations Focken-

feld and the Adoration Convent Theresianum Konnersreuth came into being.

After a short illness Resl died in the reputation of sanctity on September 18, 1962. She was buried in a crypt at the cemetery of her small home town. Then and now her grave has been the destination of numerous devotees. It testifies that prayers for intercession attributed to Resl have been granted, but it also shows the great confidence in her by the faithful then and now.

Words of Resl of Konnersreuth:

“I accept everything, living and dying, being healthy and ill, what the dear God wants, he knows best.”

“The dear Saviour helps that everything becomes right. Let us always faithfully stand by Him, even if it is hard.”

“Let us pray for each other.”

Prayers on the occasion of a novena

Holy Trinity, You have given Your faithful Servant Therese Neumann extraordinary graces. Let us together with her reverentially consider the mysteries of Your Son's life, suffering and resurrection. Give us bravery and courage to testify the truth of our Holy Faith before the whole world, and let us live through the power of the Eucharistic Sacrament. Give us numerous vocations and help the ordained priests to serve You with strength, courage and faithfulness. Grant our families peace and unity, give the youth the spirit of piety and purity. We also beseech You for all heretics and sinners that they become converted, and be gracious and merciful to the souls of the deceased. Hear our prayer, and by the intercession of the Servant of God Therese Neumann grant us the grace we fervently beseech You for. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Imprimatur: Dr. W. Gegenfurtner, Vicar General,
Regensburg, February 21, 2005)

Gratitude for favours received through Therese Neumann's intercession and prayer requests attributed or entrusted to her should in detail and truthfully be reported to the Chairman of the Department for Beatification and Canonization Processes Rev. Domvikar Georg Schwager, Schwarze-Bären-Str. 2, D-93047 Regensburg or Kath. Pfarramt, Kirchplatz 3, D-95692 Konnersreuth.

Donations for the Beatification Process can be paid into the account:
201 142 763, (BLZ 750 903 00 Ligabank Regensburg). God bless you for every donation.

Titelseite: Therese Neumann nach einem Ölgemälde von Hanne Schuhmann (1949).

